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Aleutian Islands, and Behring Sea in 1911. By A. C. Bent. "We sailed from Seattle on May 19, and took the inside passage north to Ketchikan, where we remained a few days to take on some spar buoys, and from there we sailed out through Dixon Entrance and nearly west across the Pacific Ocean to Unimak Pass. We entered the Pass on June 4, anchored for the night at Akun Island and reached Unalaska on June 5. After discharging our cargo and coaling, we started on the western trip and among the Aleutian Islands on June 10, with orders for the *Tahoma* to return to Unalaska on July 1. This gave us less than three weeks in which to explore over eight hundred miles of difficult islands, an undertaking for which three months would have been hardly time enough. We cruised the whole length of the chain, however, and landed on Stka Kiska, Attu, Tanaga, and Adak Islands, besides visiting the western end of Unalaska Island, landing at Chernofski." The "Birds Noted in the Aleutian Islands in June, 1911," comprise a list of 64 species and subspecies, and the "Birds Noted in Behring Sea in July, 1911," 17 species and 5 subspecies. The paper contains many annotations of interest. It seems a pity that more time could not have been devoted to this little known region.

No. 37. Descriptions of Two New Species of Nun Birds from Panama. By E. W. Nelson. These two species were collected on Cerro Azul, Panama (altitude 800 feet), in March, 1911, by Mr. E. A. Goldman. Only a single specimen of each was found.

L. J.

Instinct and Intelligence in Birds. By Professor Francis H. Herrick. Reprinted from the Popular Science Monthly, June, July and August, 1910. Pp. 532-558, 82-97, 122-141. "The instincts of birds may be classed in a general way as (1) continuous instincts, which are needed for the preservation of the individual, such as preying, flight, concealment and fear, however subject to modification through experience, and (2) the cyclical instincts, which are necessary for the preservation of the race."

The cyclical instincts, which of necessity are discontinuous, are given as follows:

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Migration to Breeding Area; | 5. Incubation and care of eggs; |
| 2. Courtship and Mating;       | 6. Care of Young in Nest;       |
| 3. Nest Building;              | 7. Care of Young out of Nest;   |
| 4. Laying Eggs in Nest;        | 8. Migration to Feeding Area.   |

The question as to what causes bring about the recurrence of these cyclical instincts is not discussed. Here is a fruitful field for investigation. It is upon the proper attunement of these cyclical instincts that the continuance of the species depends. Thus

the lack of such attunement in the Cowbird and the European Cuckoo is given as the cause of the parasitic habits of these birds. But in these cases there seems to be no evidence that the nest building member of the cycle is present.

Professor Herrick states that "the whole fabric of instinctive life is subject at nearly every step to the modifying influence of intelligence," yet the discussion seems to be based on the assumption that intelligence at most plays a very small if any part during the period of the bird's life when the cyclical instincts hold sway.

The discussion is timely, interesting, and valuable, and should arrest the attention of all students of birds.

L. J.

Life and Behavior of the Cuckoo. By Francis H. Herrick. 23 Figs. Reprint from the Journal of Experimental Zoölogy. Vol. IX, No. 1, Sept. 191, pp. 171-233.

The author was, of necessity, largely confined to the work and writings of others for information concerning the European cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), but his own studies of the behavior of the Black-billed Cuckoo "at Northfield, New Hampshire, in July and August, 1908 and 1909," furnished the material upon which the discussion is really based. That the discussion is fairly exhaustive for the breeding season is sufficiently attested by the thirteen main heads in the table of contents, two sub-heads under the topic hatching and six sub-heads under the record of nest life and behavior. Without going into details of the paper it may be enough to briefly summarize the conclusions reached (pp. 232-233). 1. "Cuckoos do not display more intelligence than many other species of birds, the extraordinary acts which many of them perform being sufficiently accounted for by the possession of modified and highly specialized instincts." 2. "The origin of parasitism in many of the Old World cuckoos and American cowbirds is to be sought in the disturbance of the cyclical instincts," particularly in the attunement of egg-laying to nest-building. 3. The irregularity of egg production in the two common American cuckoos might tend toward parasitism were it not for the fact that the young bird leaves the nest when seven days old. 4. A contact stimulus of a disagreeable kind is given as the reason for the eviction instinct of certain Old World cuckoos. 5. "The American black-billed cuckoo is born with rudimentary down which never unfolds. It has strong grasping reflexes, and is remarkably enduring. It can hold by one leg or toe, for a surprising length of time, and draw itself up to the perch with one or both feet, at birth or shortly